

Indo-US Defence Partnership

The deepening defence partnership between India and the United States marks one of the most consequential geopolitical realignments of the 21st century. Once estranged by Cold War rivalries and mutual suspicion, New Delhi and Washington today find themselves bound by converging strategic interests, shared democratic values, and a common commitment to a stable Indo-Pacific.

The transformation began in earnest after the 2005 Civil Nuclear Agreement, which dismantled decades of technology denial regimes and opened the door to broader strategic cooperation. Over the past decade, the relationship has evolved from buyer-seller transactions to co-development, interoperability, and strategic coordination. Foundational agreements such as LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement), COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement), and BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) have institutionalized defence cooperation and enhanced real-time intelligence sharing.

At the heart of this partnership lies the Indo-Pacific calculus. Both countries recognize the strategic implications of China's growing assertiveness from the South China Sea to the Line of Actual Control. While India maintains its doctrine of strategic autonomy, it increasingly sees value in working with the United States and like-minded partners through platforms such as the Quad, alongside Japan and Australia, to uphold freedom of navigation and a rules-based order.

Defence trade has expanded dramatically, with the United States emerging as one of India's largest arms suppliers. India has inducted platforms such as P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft, Apache attack helicopters, and MH-60R helicopters, significantly enhancing its operational capabilities. More importantly, the focus is shifting toward joint production and technology sharing under initiatives like the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), covering areas such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cyber security, and jet engine co-development. However, the partnership is not without complexities. India's legacy dependence on Russian-origin military equipment and its pursuit of diversified procurement occasionally generate friction. Differences over trade, human rights narratives, and tactical approaches to global crises also surface periodically. Yet, these divergences have not derailed the broader trajectory of cooperation-testament to the maturity the relationship has attained. For India, closer defence ties with the United States bolster deterrence, accelerate military modernization, and integrate it more deeply into global supply chains. For the United States, India represents a pivotal democratic partner capable of balancing power in Asia without formal alliance obligations. The partnership thus rests on pragmatic realism rather than treaty-bound commitments. Going forward, the success of the Indo-US defence partnership will hinge on sustained political will, institutional continuity, and mutual sensitivity to each other's strategic compulsions. As the global order undergoes rapid transformation, the India-US defence axis is poised not merely as a transactional arrangement but as a cornerstone of regional stability and technological collaboration. If nurtured wisely, it could shape the strategic architecture of the Indo-Pacific for decades to come.

Evolution of Radio Communication in India

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The history of broadcasting is actually linked to the history of journalism. Broadcasting owes to its origin to idea of journalism which has its genesis in the ancient communication system. The importance of news was recognized even before ink & paper were invented. It was important both for the rulers as well as the people. Rulers were required to be abreast with current happening for the purpose of administration and for people it was a means of obtaining information.

The invention of the printing press revolutionized the scenario, which became the most powerful means of dissemination of news & other information before the advent of radio. The invention of radio was preceded by the invention of wireless, telegraph. Guglielmo Marconi pioneered wireless communication between England & France in 1899 and across the Atlantic in 1901. Initially, there was no transmission of sound over wireless transmitters. It was only with the help of Morse Code that messages were transmitted on telegraph, which is still in practice.

Later it was discovered that sound could also be transmitted. It so happened that a ship was sailing in the sea near San Francisco, when a crew member heard the sound of some music on his wireless set. He was flummoxed & immediately went to his captain and asked whether he had gone mad as he was getting the sound of music. Later, it was found that some orchestra was being played near the shore. This incident clearly demonstrated that sound could be transmitted through a wireless transmitter and ultimately led to the invention of radio. In USA radio had its advent as early as in 1909, when station in San Jose, California started broadcasting announcements & photographic music. Amateurs were the first to start broadcasting in Bharatvarsha. The Bombay Presidency Radio Club made its mark by broadcasting its first program in June 1923. In November of that year, the Calcutta Radio Club also went on the air followed by the Madras Presidency Radio Club, which started broadcasting on 31st July 1924, with a 40-watt transmitter. The first broadcasting station with a 1.5 kW Medium Wave transmitter was opened in Bombay by the Indian Broadcasting Company in July 1927. A month later in August, another station with a transmitter of the same capacity was opened in Calcutta. On 1st March 1930, the Indian Broadcasting Corporation went into liquidation and was taken over by the Govt. of India under the name "Indian State Broadcasting Service". On 8th June 1936, the organization was rechristened as All India Radio (AIR). It took its shape & programme pattern between 1937 & 1940 under the leadership of Lionel Fielden, who was appointed the first Controller of Broadcasting in 1936. He along with an expert from BBC, conducted a study of the broadcasting requirements of Bharat. On their recommendation, GOI undertook a development programme on broadcasting with an initial investment of Rs 40 lakhs.

Since then, AIR's coverage area has expanded significantly across the country as AIR's member stations and transmit-



ters have multiplied. The Second World War boosted its expansion and it received further boost after independence as it was considered a very effective means of mass information and education.

The first Plan of development, formulated in 1945, was based on a measured-wave service for the whole nation. It was planned to install one or more powerful transmitters in areas with diverse linguistic cultures area that were not well covered by the medium wave service. Because this would be expensive it was also felt that the stations should be commissioned simultaneously to avoid charges for ignoring certain areas, the government decided to set up pilot stations with transmitters of one kW or less capacity and interim studios with minimal staff and equipment. They were to be replaced with more powerful transmitters and permanent studios.

In 1947, undivided Bharat had only nine radio stations located at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lucknow, Tiruchirappally, Lahore, Peshavar and Dhaka. In 1951, at the beginning of first five-year plan, Radio service's reach was available to only 20% of the population. In 1956, the name "Akashvani" was adopted. The Radio service expanded considerably and by 1960 covered 56% of the population and 37% of the county's geographical area. Compared to first 5-year plan, finances for broadcasting were increased during the Second Five Year Plan in 1957. Vividh Bharati was launched in the same year to counter the growing popularity of Radio Celone's commercial service. It provided popular film music as its main component.

By 1984, 90% of the country's population and 78% of its territory came under its coverage. In 1991, AIR covered 97.5% of the population and 91% of the area with the help of 102 full-fledged Radio Stations which were production centers and 205 broadcasting centers which included Relay centers. Currently AIR reaches out 99.18% of the population spread over about 91.85% of the area through 262 broadcasting centres with 742 transmitters (7 of SW, 122

of MW, and 613 FM). AIR is now the largest broadcasting network in the world.

Although electronic media and channels captured a vast mass in India and gave a phenomenal growth in last decades, Radio is still considered a true mass medium because it is low-cost mobile means of communication. Its importance increases further because it is not affected by the huge power shortage in the country. Secondly, unlike print media, radio can overcome the barrier of illiteracy. Transcending the barriers of rivers and mountains it reaches out to the farthest corner of the country.

AIR's home-service programmes are transmitted in 23 languages and 146 dialects and Vividh Bharati programmes transmitted for 15 to 17 hours daily across 43 stations. There are external service broadcasts in 17 foreign languages and 18 Indian languages for about 75 hours daily. External broadcasts were started by the British Government to project its point of view on the circumstances which had to the outbreak of world war-II and its day-to-day progress to the strategically important region of Afghanistan bordering North-West frontier province of Bharat. The News Service Division of AIR is one of the longest running news organizations in the world. The Central News Organization was set up in 1937 to prepare and broadcast in English & Marathi from Bombay and English & Bengali from Calcutta. After sometime the Marathi bulletin from Bombay was replaced by one in Hindusthani. Initially, other stations used to receive news bulletins from Delhi through their receiving centres or telephone lines. Bulletins in Indian languages, other than Hindusthani were also broadcasted 3-times a day. Central News Organisations (CNO) was rechristened "News and External Service Division" after the end of the war. Again in 1948, the External Service was separated from the News Division, but the News Service Division continued to produce the news bulletins for the External Service as well.

Private radio broadcasting was introduced in year 2000, when commercial FM stations were allowed to broadcast programmes (mainly music) with local content. Currently there are 388 private FM stations. There are also several community radio stations (CRS).

Now the News Division of All India Radio (AIR) is headed by the Director General. The post of DG (News) in AIR was created in 1991. Earlier the News Service Division was headed by an Indian Information Service Officer of the rank ADG, who was called Director, News Service. But now there are many ADGs. Below them are the Joint Directors & then the News Editors. Hourly news bulletins are broadcast from Delhi in Hindi & English. Regional News units of different states have their separate news bulletins in different languages. The Regional units are headed by officers of different rank, viz.-Joint Director, News Editor or Assistant News Editor. Apart from news bulletins, several current affairs & news-based programmes like Spotlight, News Reel, Letters from States, Letters from districts are also broadcast.

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Nutmeg-The Healing Essence Within Your Kitchen



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The nutmeg tree, large and evergreen, is native to Moluccas (The spice islands) and is now grown in many places. It produces two species - mace and nutmeg. Nutmeg is the seed kernel inside the fruit and mace is the lacy covering on the kernel. Nutmeg has a slightly sweeter taste while mace is more delicate in flavour. Nutmeg is always used in ground or grated form. It is the best when it is grated a fresh.

Nutmeg is used for flavouring dishes in all countries such as Malaysia, India and the Arab countries, where it is available. Apart from this, nutmeg has lot of medicinal values which are given below:

**Medicinal Properties**  
In Ayurveda, it is used as a natural sleep aid, normally taken in warm milk before going to bed (Natarajan, 2011). It stimulates appetite and digestion. Nutmeg is always used in very small quantities. It can reduce flatulence, aid digestion, improve the appetite, nausea and vomiting. It can be used for treating diarrhoea also.

Nutmeg pacifies Vata and Kapha and increases pitta. It contributes the pungent, bitter and astringent tastes. It is a warming spice and helps to reduce pain, controls convulsions and inflammation. A paste of nutmeg applied to the forehead helps to relieve headaches. Nutmeg powder helps in diseases related to the dehydration and clears the respiratory tract, thus relieving coughs. It is effective in skin related ailments.

**Botanical Description**  
The nutmeg tree is unique among species as the donor of two distinct species in commerce. Nutmeg is the seed of an Apricot like fruit of the nutmeg tree and mace is its aril a thin leathery

tissue spread over the seed coat. Both species are strongly aromatic resinous and warm in taste. Mace is generally said to have a fine aroma than nutmeg. Nutmeg quickly loses its fragrance when ground. Commercial part of the tree spice is seed. Naturally nutmeg is limited to the Banda islands, a tiny archipelago.

**Cultural Practices**

**Climatic requirement:** Nutmeg requires a hot humid climate without pronounced dry season, with an annual rainfall of 150 cm and more. It grows well from sea level areas upto about 1300m above means sea level.

**Soil requirement:** It requires clay loam, sandy loam and red laterite soils are ideal for its growth. The soil should be rich in organic matter and well drained. The tree prefers partial shade. Sheltered valleys are the best suited. Both dry climate and water logged soil conditions are not suitable for nutmeg cultivation.

**Propagation:** Nutmeg is commercially propagated through grafts. For raising root stocks naturally split healthy fruits are harvested during the month of July. The seeds are extracted from the pericarp and sown immediately in the seed bed of convenient length (1.5 m width and 15 cm height). Harvesting: The Peak harvesting season is during the months of June to August. Fruits get ready for harvesting in about 9 months after flowering. Yield: Fully grown trees under normal conditions may produce on an average about 2000-3000 fruits per year. Optimum yield about 800 kg nutmeg and 160 kg mace can be obtained per hectare.

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Budgeting is a planning, controlling and financial tool and it sets forth and delineates the revenues, expenditures and outlines the growth trajectory for the financial year ahead. The elected government and to be specific its chief minister Omar Abdullah who also is the finance minister of the UT has presented the second budget of his coalition government. The Jammu and Kashmir UT Budget 2026-27, presented by chief minister Omar Abdullah, is a growth-oriented, pro people, and inclusive financial plan of Rs 1,13,767 crore, designed to build a modern, sustainable, and economically vibrant region. It focuses on economic resilience featuring 32 major welfare measures, agricultural services growth, and infrastructure development to uplift the poor, youth, and women, while perusing fiscal discipline. Omar Abdullah has unequivocally stated umpteen times that the budget will be people's budget and this financial statement has been well prepared with due consultations with all the stakeholders. This year's budget of the UT is of the tune of 1.27 Lakh crore and there is emphasis on inclusive growth fiscal prudence and financial discipline and health. The budget 2026-27 is growth oriented, pro people, pro poor and all-inclusive budget and it is expected to satisfy the aspirations of the majority of the people and that is the test of the financial stability and growth-oriented budget in a democracy. The budget will lay a strong foundation of a prosperous economy along with social harmony as well as sustainable prosperity. Omar Stated that his government is committed to transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a modern, progressive and economically vibrant region and the budget aims to realise these lofty and big ambitions for the benefit of the people. The budget outlines wide ranging people-centric initiatives aimed at giving immediate relief to poor while strengthening social protection and security. The budget promotes inclusive growth and it has been made to ensure equitable development to all regions of J&K. It is praiseworthy and no mean thing that the chief minister announced 32 major welfare measures for the people in this year's budget. Thus we can say that major welfare majors have been made for the poor such as six LPG Cylinders for AAY families, fee waivers for indigent students and scholarship for 6000 orphans. All these provisions in the budget are epoch making and are not ordinary things but extra-ordinary for the poor people of the UT. It is so good that the budget proposes and promises regularisation of daily wagers after

J&K UT's Growth Oriented, pro People & Inclusive Budget



panel report and this assurance will solve the long-standing stagnation and problem of the daily wagers for which they have been agitating for years. Regularisation of the daily wagers will ensure justice which has been denied to them for years and regularisation of the daily wagers if it finalises will be a significant development. Provision of scholarships to 6000 orphans is historical initiative and development of Omar government and for this and other pro people and pro poor provisions, Omar Abdullah and his coalition government deserve commendation. These initiatives reflect and symbolise social justice targeted welfare and long-term empowerment. The pro poor initiatives are addressed to the marginalised sections of the society. For the strengthening of the livelihood of artisans and to promote J&K's globally renowned crafts, the enhanced provisions were made in budget. JK government has received Rs 200 crore for the construction of unity Mall to be permanent craft bazar which will be for local products, handicrafts, handloom and traditional enterprises from across the country.

It is a good thing that all industrial units getting government subsidy, electricity and land concessions will have to give preference to local youth in employment and this is the praiseworthy assurance in the budget. The budget proposes and promises launch of e-Pathshala DTH Channel, a free to air platform delivering curriculum-aligned lessons from class 1 to 12 without internet dependency. Government will also upgrade 1000 Anganwadi

centres into modern Bal Vidyalayas with improved learning spaces and safety standards at a cost of Rs 72,000 per centre. An outlay of Rs 70 crore was proposed for scholarships benefiting over 3 lakh tribal students, covering pre-matric, and post-matric scheduled tribe learners.

**Key Growth-Oriented and Pro-people Features of Budget 2026-27---**  
a---Financial Scope---Total budget of Rs 1,13,767 crore aiming to strengthen the economic foundations. b---Welfare and Social Focus---Budget provides 32 key initiatives for immediate relief, improved social security, and support for the poor and middle class. c---Economic Growth---The budget prioritizes infrastructure development, boosting tourism, agriculture, and service sector. d-Fiscal Responsibility---Focuses on curbing losses in the power sector and promoting austerity measures for long-term fiscal stability. e---Job Creation & Youth---Budget aims to create employment opportunities and support entrepreneurship. f---Regional Development---It aims to equitable and just development across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The budget described as 'Safar Jaari Hai', highlights a transition from resilience to renewal after economic disruption in certain sectors. Budget delivered against the backdrop of terrorism, devastating floods, and global economic uncertainty, signals a decisive push towards reform-led development, fiscal prudence and inclusive growth and governance. In this year's budget fiscal consolidation is the priority number one and it should be

achieved for the benefit of the J&K economy and its people. The government outlined a series of reforms to stabilize finances-tightening expenditure, enforcing austerity, improving debt management, and pursuing power sector reforms to curb losses. Despite GST rationalization impacting revenues, strengthened enforcement and digitization pushed tax revenue to over 10,000 crore and non-tax revenues close to Rs 5,000 crore by December 2025. The budget places strong emphasis on governance reforms and employment. Over 7,650 government jobs were filled in 2025 and the plans to fast track recruitment for 23,800 more posts. Compassionate appointments, reforms for daily wagers, and timely honorarium for ASHA, Anganwadi workers and vocational instructors reflect a welfare-oriented administrative approach. The budget outlined a strategy for sustainable, year-round tourism, with investments in environmental infrastructure, adventure sports, heritage restoration and digital services like the JK tourism App. An International Film Festival is planned for 2026-27 to enhance global visibility. From tribal welfare and migrant rehabilitation to clean energy, disaster preparedness and youth skilling through Mission YUVA, the budget 2026-27 paints a comprehensive picture of a region striving to turn crisis into opportunity. In short JK Budget reflects growth, people-centric initiatives, inclusive governance and social justice as its core. It is hoped that the budget 2026-27 will fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.